



Gateway Chamber Orchestra

Romantic Visions

February 8 & 9 2015

Symphony No. 32 in G

by W.A. Mozart
(1756-1791)

About the Composer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791) spent most of his life in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria. He began composing and performing when he was just four years old and soon became a very famous musician. Although he composed mostly for operas and full orchestras, he was said to have been especially fond of wind instruments.

YouTube Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrivONDmk-I>



About the Music

Mozart composed this symphony in 1779 after a trip to Paris. Many musicians believe the piece was written as an overture or introduction to a staged theatrical play; perhaps an opera. Although Mozart took composition very seriously, he was also known for sneaking little bits of humor into his music. In the case of the 32nd Symphony, it was not as much humor that Mozart used, but more of a very unique approach to a symphony. Usually a symphony is a longer piece of music (sometimes 30 minutes or more). Mozart's Symphony No. 32, however, is only about 8 or 9 minutes long. Next, most symphonies include four movements; Mozart used only three movements in this symphony, each movement taking only 2 or 3 minutes to perform. Finally, the last movement uses melodies that were introduced in the first movement, but are performed in reverse order.

Visions and Miracles

by Christopher Theofanidis
(b. 1967)

Youtube Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmlXygAnBYQ>

About the Composer

Christopher Theofanidis is a Grammy-nominated American composer whose music is performed by some of the finest symphonies, opera companies, and ballet companies around the world. He currently teaches in the music department at Yale University.



About the Music

Visions and Miracles was composed in 1997. Originally written for a string quartet, the piece was inspired by a recording of vocal and instrumental music from the 12th and 13th centuries. The first movement is energetic with quick-moving upward and downward scales and *glissandos*. Listen for the string players to slide a finger up the instrument as they play. This is called a *glissando*. The second movement is slower and more thoughtful, but continues to use upward scales as the main melody. The final movement is intended to sound like an ancient dance. In this quick movement, the rhythms and melodies are slightly different from one instrument to the next, making it sound like someone is not quite playing what is written on the music.

Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56, (Scottish) by F. Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

Youtube Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nP0gqKmWuY>

About the Composer

Felix Mendelssohn, also known as Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, was a Romantic-era composer from Germany. He is best known for the *Wedding March* he composed to accompany William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



About the Music

There are many who consider Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 to be his finest work. Mendelssohn wrote this symphony in 1842 based on his memories of being in Scotland some twenty years earlier. Although Mendelssohn called this work his "Scottish" Symphony, there is no reference to Scottish music or culture in the piece so there is some mystery as to why Mendelssohn named the piece the way he did. The Scottish Symphony is written in four movements, but is intended to be performed with no breaks between movements. As an additional unique feature of this work, each movement is written in a different key, alternating between major (happy sounding) and minor (sad sounding) as well as alternating between fast and slow.